

Meeting Record

MPO Technical Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2002
City/County Building, Room 113
Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Allan Abbott, Kent Morgan, Roger Figard, Mark Wullschleger, Ron Schlautman (representing Art Yonkey), Don Thomas, Liz Wunderlich (representing Eldon Poppe), Virendra Singh, Larry Worth, Rick Thorson

OTHERS:

Ducan Ross (Planning), Brian Praeuner (StarTran), and Randy Hoskins, Mike Brienzo, Roger Ohlrich, and Karen Sieckmeyer (Public Works/Utilities)

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

Technical Committee Meeting

Allan Abbott called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the March 14, 2002 Technical Committee Meeting

Mark Wullschleger moved to approve the March 14, 2002 minutes, seconded by Worth.

Ron Schlautman had a comment regarding the information on the MPO being moved to Public Works/Utilities. It should read that the **Program Manager** for the MPO has been moved to Public Works/Utilities rather than saying the MPO has been moved.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Review and action on the Lincoln-Lancaster FY 2002-2003 Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning

Mike Brienzo explained that the Unified Planning Work Program was an MPO document which is prepared annually and describes the work activities that will be taking place over the next fiscal year, which includes the Long Range Transportation Plan, and associated planning activities. Mike talked briefly about the major categories in this plan which are: 1) Administration; 2) Data Development; 3) Comprehensive Planning; 4) Subarea Planning and Implementation; 5) Continuing Urban Transportation Planning Process; 6) Environmental Studies and Programs; and 7) Codes Development and Enforcement.

Mike explained what was being requested today is approval of the Unified Planning Work Program by the Technical Committee so the Unified Planning Work Program can be forwarded to the Officials Committee.

Since the Unified Planning Work Program is presently in *draft* form, Ron Schlautman asked if once it is approved by the Officials Committee, will it be in final form or will it need to be approved again?

Mike said it would be in final form unless the Officials Committee change it.

Ron Schlautman mentioned that he did not see any money associated with the activities. Kent Morgan

explained that most of the money will come from land use.

Allan Abbott asked the question regarding the list on page 35. What happens if some of this work does not get done or if there is a change? He then stated that, under the description of Antelope Valley and the Beltway Implementation, work may include the review and refinement of the plan detail as the project design develops. This verbage is included under both descriptions when, in fact, on Antelope Valley we will be buying right-of-way and starting construction in 2002-2003. So the question is, if it is not in the Work Program, can we still do it? Ron Schlautman said it would be better to include the project. Allan stated that in regard to Antelope Valley, we should indicate that we will be acquiring right-of-way in conjunction with starting construction in that same time frame. With the design phase, some right-of-way acquisition could occur on the South Beltway in that period of time also.

A motion was made by Virendra Singh to recommend approval of the Unified Planning Work Program to the Officials Committee with the revisions that were discussed above, seconded by Figard. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Review and action on a recommendation regarding 2002 Certification that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations. Recommendation is on the last page of the 2002 Certification Report.

This report is coordinated annually with Planning and Public Works/Utilities Department. The focus of the report is identified by the planning regulation requirements and to identify key areas of activities that are accomplished to satisfy those requirements. The key elements are the updates to the Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan. This report also identifies environmental justice activities that were pursued over the past year. The key elements for this are on page 7 "Certification by the MPO and the State that the planning process is being carried on in conformance to appropriate Federal laws and regulations". Page 8 identified four areas where the FTA/FHWA recommended improvements. The four bullets indicate what we have done or are in the process of doing to satisfy these recommendations.

Mike spoke briefly about the plan of actions on FTA - FHWA recommended improvements which includes the Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation Planning for the Metropolitan Urban; Implementation of the StarTran plan to coordinate specialized transportation services that are provided and also private transit providers; Development of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan and Deployment Study for the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County; and Developing a New Long Range Transportation Plan for the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Allan asked for any questions or comments. Roger Figard had a question regarding the recommendation on page 8 that reads "This report identified that there are no major deficiencies in the planning process and one impending deficiency in the concurrence of the MPO Prospectus. Mike explained we were planning on updating the *Memorandum of Understanding* but we didn't want to get ahead of the update of the Prospectus and the designation of the TMA. Mike stated that it does point out in our discussion as adopted by the Technical Committee that we will do this upon designation as the TMA.

Allan said that since it is not required yet, it is not a deficiency so unless we would have a lengthy explanation along with it, it would be easier to take the sentence out. A motion was made by Figard and seconded by Worth to remove the sentence. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike said the new sentence would read *This report identifies that there are no major deficiencies in the planning process.*

With no other items to be discussed, a motion was made by Larry Worth to recommend approval of the

recommendation on Page 8 of the *Report on Certification that the Transportation Planning Process complies with applicable federal laws and regulations* as amended, seconded by Figard. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 4 - Review and action on the FY 2003-2005 and 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mike Brienzo handed out copies of an amendment to the TIP Program which was requested by each agency. Mike explained that the TIP is a planning document which has two sections. The first is the listing of “Priority Projects” which covers the first three years and the other section is the listing of “Out Year Projects” covering the second three years. Once this program is approved by the Technical Committee, it will be taken to the Planning Commission and then to the Officials Committee. After that, it will be tied in with the State Transportation Program (STIP). Mike went over the project changes that were included in the handout.

Roger said they were going to need some revisions in the RTSD Program to make sure that the Antelope Valley Project pieces are consistent with the language and project description identified in the City’s Program. The revised Antelope Valley and the City Program have very clearly defined Phase I projects and while the RTSD’s budget is more generalized. Mike recommended that since the primary agent is the City and not the RTSD, it would not be necessary; it would just be for information purposes. Roger feels it is more correct to identify the projects that contain RTSD funds which are identified in the City Program and list them in the TIP Program. Roger feels it may help verify audits and funding sources. Roger proposed to the committee that the district make those amendments and language changes so there is consistency between the two programs.

There being no further questions or amendments, a motion was made by Virendra Singh to recommend approval of the document as submitted and revised at today’s meeting to the Planning Commission for acceptance. Seconded by Figard. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #5 - Review of the Mobile Source Air Toxics Monitoring activities by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Rick Thoreson, Air Quality Program Director, with the City County Health Department passed around the results of a survey from the American Lung Association that states that Lincoln, Nebraska is one of the cleanest cities in the nation for air quality based on ozone monitoring. Rick told the committee how the emission trends are going down. These trends are things that can be documented from our stationery source that we inventory every year. The largest contributor to air pollution is automobiles and trucks. There are ways that you can measure air pollution but they are primarily computer monitoring and measuring. Rick went on to explain how they do the measuring. Beginning in April, the Health Department started measuring toxic - these are hazardous air pollutants which can cause cancer or respiratory disability. The types of pollutants that are emitted by factories affect each of us as we go about our daily activities. We now will be able to determine the concentrations of air toxic in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Rick passed around a map of the county that has an outline of the target area. The Health Department is focusing on an area that does have industry, yet is a major transportation network. Rick explained how they are monitoring these areas. They won’t have any results from the study for a month or two. If the data is consistent with the other pollutants that the Health Departments monitors, Lincoln will not have a problem with these air toxics.

What do you do about fugitive dust in development and construction areas. Rick commented that that has always been a problem. Once a plat plan is received by the Health Department, one of the first thing they do is require the developer to control the dust to the best of their ability. This might mean planting vegetation,

watering the roadways and adjacent areas. Rick feels they receive good cooperation from the developers.

Item No. 6 - Other topics for discussion.

Kent Morgan gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan. He mentioned that there is a public hearing on May 8th with the City Council and also County Board. They will meet again on May 22nd to give the public another opportunity to comment on the draft plan. That will be the last time that the City Council and County Board will take testimony on the plan itself. There is a possibility of a work session on the May 23rd if necessary. Action on the plan itself by the County Board will be on May 28th at their regular meeting. The City Council will then meet at 4:00 p.m. the same day to take similar action. By the evening of the May 28th, there should be a plan in place that will include the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Transportation Plan will be forwarded to the Officials Committee in June for their approval. Depending on the Mayor approval, the City and County's plan will be approved in the first part of June.

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